Numb. 26.

THE REHEARSAL Of Obſervator, &c.

The Combination *of the* Faction *in* Scotland.

From Saturday January the 20th, to Saturday January the 27th, 1705.

Obſ. HAd'ſt thou ſeen that *Paper* thou Carry'ſt in thy Hand, laſt *Saturday* was three *Weeks*, when we talk'd of the *Scotch* Affairs? *Num.* 23

Country-m. No, upon my word. I neither had *Seen* it nor *Heard* of it at that Time.

Obſ. Then thou'rt Certainly a *Witch*, or haſt a Plaguy *Knack* at *Gueſſing*! Thou told'ſt me then, That this Affair in *Scotland*, was not a *National*, but a *Party* buſineſs. And this *Paper* proves it to a Demonſtration.

Country-m. It is Eaſie to Fore-ſee what Men will do, from what they have done, from their Avowed *Principles* and *Inclination*. There needs no Spirit of *Propheſie* to tell this. Nor need he be a *Conjurer* who ſees, That this *Faction* is Exactly Treading over again the ſteps of *Forty One*.

Obſ. We may Talk more of this another Time. But what ſays the *Letter* in which this *Paper* came? And what *Date* do's it bear?

Country-m. It is *Dated* at *Edinburgh*, *Dec.* 30 1704. And begins in theſe Words, *This paper which you here find is the Reſult of many grave Conſultations in the Weſt, and is Handed about amongſt the Godly*, &c. This is the Account the *Letter* that *Incloſ'd* it gives of it. And now let us Read it once more, and Conſider it ſeriouſly. Thou haſt it, as I had it, without *Adding*, *Diminiſhing*, or *Altering* one word, upon my *Honour*. Now *Liſten*, thus it Begins.

Overtures for Security of the Country againſt the preſent Danger it lies under, from the Deſigns of Papiſts and Jacobites.

1. THat the Popiſh and Jacobite Party have a Deſign againſt the preſent Eſtabliſhment, may eaſily appear to any thinking Men, from many too Pregnant Evidences, not needfull here to be mentioned. Secondly, that it ſeems Reaſonable, That ſuch as love their Religion and Liberty, and wiſh well to Her Majeſty's Government and Perſon, ſhould be upon their Guard, and uſe all Lawfull and Neceſſary means for their own Defence, looking always unto God for his Bleſſing upon Endeavours.

And it's thought needfull, 1ſt. That all neceſſary means be fallen upon, to awaken People, and ſhow them their danger. 2d. That means be fallen upon to find out what State the *well Affected* of this Nation are in, *viz.* What is their Number, in each Paroch or Shire, if they be Armed, what condition their Arms are in, and what Arms are wanting. 3dly. That a way may be fallen upon to provide ſuch of them as want either Arms or Ammunition. 4thly. That a Coreſpondence be begun and kept up amongſt them thro' the Nation; and that they may be Unite in caſe of an Inſult from Enemies; And, if poſſible, That they may be taught in the Uſe of Arms. 5thly. That methods be fallen upon to obtain the Countenance of the Government for that effect: But in the mean time, That People be not wanting in their private Capacities, to do what in them lies, in a Legal way, to provide againſt a miſchief.

And for the Firſt it is propoſed, That ſuch as have any Impreſſion of our preſent Danger, would Labour to have a due Senſe of their own Sins, and the Sins of the Land, which are the procuring Cauſe of our Miſeries, and would not fail to awaken and rouſe up their Friends and Acquaintance to have the ſame Impreſſion both by Diſcourſe and Writing; and by diſperſing away pertinent Papers that come from *abroad* on that Subject.

For the Second it is propoſed, That two or three that are Heretors, or Elders, in each Paroch, that can have acceſs to Examination Rolls of each Parioch, do meet together and get through theſe Rolls; And in their going through, do pitch out ſuch as are undoubtedly well affected to the preſent Government of this Nation, and certainly would imploy their Arms for the defence againſt a Popiſh Succeſſor; And take the number of them, and that being done, they divide the Parioch among themſelves, And that each go through his own Quarter, and in a Private and Prudent Way, make inquiry amongſt theſe perſons pitched upon as *well Affected*, and who of them have Arms, and if any of them have ſpare Arms, and how

how many and what condition theſe Arms are in, and if they be near an equal Bore, and what of the *well affected* people are not able to buy Arms for themſelves. This Account being taken, that they give in the ſame to a Truſtee or Confidant in the Head-Borough of each Shire where theſe Pariochs do lie, or as near the Head-Borough as they can, who can tranſmit them to a Truſtee at *Edinburgh*. By this means it will appear what number of *well affected* people are in the Country, how they are Armed, how many Arms are wanting through the Nation, and ſo who need be provided either at home or abroad; And how much common Fund will be needfull for furniſhing ſuch as are not able to furniſh themſelves.

To the Third it's propos'd, That each *well affected* perſon contribute to his Ability for Buying up of Arms and Ammunition to ſuch as want, and are not able to buy; and that it may be done effectually, it is propos'd, That in each Shire one or two honeſt ſubſtantial Perſons be choſen, in whoſe hands the Contribution may be lodged, and that for Security of the Contributers toward the right applying of their Money, to be advanc'd, do give Recept thereof to the Contributers if he require it, in theſe terms. I *A. B.* grant me to have Receiv'd from, *&c.* the Sum of, *&c.* which I oblige me to ware or beſtow for him, according to the directions preſently given by him to me, and to hold compt to him; therefore, as Witneſs my Hand, *&c.* But if the Perſons willing to Contribute have not preſent Money, and the Truſtee be willing to give him Credit for ſome time, That the Truſtee draw upon the Contributer for the Sum that he is willing to Contribute to this effect: Pay to me, or order the Sum of, *&c.* value in Accompt; and let the Contributer accept to a certain day. It is hop'd that a Cautioner will not be found requiſite. But that People in ſuch an affair will give an intire Credit, and Truſt one another: But that if that it be found requiſite, then the former method ſeems ſafer, and more *Cloſe*, than a multitude of Subſcriptions at one Paper, and can *never be diſcover'd*; ſeeing none are privy thereto, but the Truſtee and Contributer; and let theſe Confidents remit the ſame to two or three Confidents at *Edinburgh*, who may give account thereof to their Truſtees in the Shires in the above written terms is deſir'd, and may beſtow the Money by providing Arms at home, and by imploying Merchants therewith to bring Arms and Ammunition from Abroad, and conform to the Contributions of the ſeveral Shires, may ſend Arms and Amunition to their Truſtees, which Truſtees may diſtribute them to their Pariochs within their Shires according as they need, and a Recept of the number of Arms from one or two honeſt men of the Paroch ſhall exoner the Truſtees.

To the Fourth it is propos'd, That in each Shire or Country ſide or Bounds of a Preſbytery, two or three Perſons be choſen as is ſaid for Truſtees, who may keep Correſpondence with the Truſtees at *Edinburgh* from time to time in a *cloſe manner as can be*, and underſtand what is doing in every place, and concert what is further needful, and in particular, it will be fit, That in order to be in readineſs, in caſe any Emergent occur, That in each two or three, or more Paroches fit Perſons be choſen to be Captains, and they to choſe their own Subalterns and Serjents, and in caſe there be any Eruption that may occaſion a general appearance amongſt honeſt People, That they reſolve themſelves to be pitch'd on by the Officers, to be a *Standing Force*, and that the Perſons not pitch'd on ſhall bear their proportion of the Charges with the perſons pitch'd on for their meeting together, and that the places of Meeting and Officers, be made known to all the *well Affected* in the Shires.

And that likewiſe a place of general Meeting be condeſcended on, and it will be neceſſar that theſe perſons pitch'd upon for Officers in the Conjunction, with other prudent and intelligent men in the bounds, have a *watchful Eye over thoſe whom they judge ill Affected*, and ready to join the Enemy at their appearing, and that upon the very firſt Report of any Eruption, they do *Seize upon ſuch perſons, and decline them.*

For the Fifth, any of our great People, who are *well affected*, eſpecially theſe in the Government, would be ſpoken to for that purpoſe, and that *ſpeedily as can be.*

If the Governments concurrence be not *Speedily gotten* and that Merchants for fear of being Obnoxious to the Government ſhall make ſcruple, to give Commiſſion for Arms and Ammunition; It is propoſed for an Expedient, that the Arms be ſent for *in the names of the Cities of* Edinburgh, Glaſgow, *and other* Royal Boroughs, whoſe *Magiſtrates* are *well affected*, and who will willingly concur: And its thought, that Merchants without hazard may bring home ſmall quantities, not exceeding a Thouſand apiece, and Ammunition alſo. But in ſuch Towns and Pariochs where they are *very well affected*, ſuch as are well inclin'd, may prudently deal with others as they apprehend may be brought in *without diſcovery at firſt of the whole deſign*, and to uſe their own way and prudence in the Management, for the Directory cannot be Univerſally follow'd, but in ſome part it may.

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